

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 250930  
ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:JSHUMATE/LD  
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE  
C- MR. WOLF  
S GMITCHELL  
SS - DANDERSON  
EUR/NE LFUNSETH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250930

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, UK, US

SUBJECT SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ROY MASON, NORTHERN  
IRELAND SECRETARY

1. SECRETARY VANCE MET WITH NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY  
MASON OCTOBER 17 FOR 30 MINUTES. MASON EXPRESSED  
APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN  
IRELAND WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED, ALONG WITH THOSE OF LEAD-  
ING IRISH AMERICAN LEADERS, AS BEING VERY HELPFUL IN  
REDUCING THE SUPPORT IN THE US FOR VIOLENT ELEMENTS IN  
THE PROVINCE. HE DESCRIBED A SITUATION THERE IN WHICH  
SECURITY HAS GREATLY IMPROVED IN RECENT MONTHS, AND WHOSE  
EXTREMISTS ARE INCREASINGLY ISOLATED IN THE COMMUNITY.  
THE RUC, ARMY AND SAS OPERATE EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER AND  
THE RUC DOES SO WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ELEMENTS IN THE  
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REPUBLIC WHERE, INCREASINGLY, TERRORISTS MUST SEEK  
SANCTUARY. THE EFFECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL ROLE OF THE RUC  
IN DEALING WITH PAISLEY'S GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT GAINED  
IT CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE AMONG CATHOLICS, AND THE RUC  
IS AN INCREASINGLY CAPABLE AND CREDIBLE FORCE.

2. MASON SAID SECURITY HAD BEEN HIS FIRST PRIORITY AFTER

ASSUMING THE NI PORTFOLIO AND DURING THE PERIOD NOT MUCH POLITICAL MOVEMENT HAD OCCURRED. THE ELECTION IN THE

SOUTH, THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO NI AND THE CALLAGHAN-LYNCH MEETING HAD CAUSED POLITICIANS IN BELFAST TO WATCH AND WAIT. NOW THAT ALL THREE OF THOSE EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, AND ESPECIALLY SINCE THE LYNCH-CALLAGHAN MEETING PRODUCED A POSITIVE CLIMATE, MASON SAID HE NOW COULD BEGIN MEETING WITH THE POLITICIANS. HE WILL AIM AT STEPS LEADING TO PARTIAL DEVOLUTION SINCE MORE THAN THAT AT ONE TIME COULD BE "INDIGESTIBLE". THERE WILL BE NO "IMPOSED" SOLUTION AND ALTHOUGH MASON SAID HE COULD NOT DESCRIBE HIMSELF AS HOPEFUL, NEITHER WAS HE PESSIMISTIC.

3. MASON SAID HIS MAIN JOB NOW IS TO BRING DOWN UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH AT 12.6 PERCENT IS TWICE AS HIGH AS IN GREAT BRITAIN. FOR THIS REASON HE HAD VISITED INDUSTRIAL LEADERS IN THE US ON THE EAST AND WEST COASTS TO ENCOURAGE JOB PRODUCING INVESTMENT. HE SAID HIS MESSAGE WAS OF INVESTMENT INCENTIVES AT LEAST EQUAL TO ANY PLACE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HE PARTICULARLY WISHED TO ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT AND WAS DELIGHTED THAT DUPONT WILL ADD \$50 MILLION TO THEIR PRESENT PLANT AND SEVERAL OTHER US FIRMS WILL INVEST A TOTAL OF \$60 MILLION.

4. ON THE SO-CALLED "IRISH DIMENSION" MASON'S ONLY COMMENT WAS

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MENT WAS THAT EVEN CATHOLIC POLITICIANS KNOW UNIFICATION WILL NEVER OCCUR "IN OUR LIFETIME" AND PRESSING FOR IT WILL NOT RESOLVE THE NEARER-TERM PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S PEOPLE. HE COMMENTED THAT ONE OF THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES THERE WAS THE "BARRIER OF VERBIAGE."

5. THE SECRETARY ASSURED MR. MASON THAT WE WILL DO NOTHING TO INTERFERE AND ASKED HIM TO LET US KNOW HOW WE MAY BE OF HELP.

6. PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING INCLUDED, IN ADDITION TO THE SECRETARY AND MR. MASON, MR. NIMETZ, COUNSELOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE, EUR/NE DIRECTOR FUNSETH, MR. WOLF, COUNSELOR'S OFFICE, AND MESSRS. SHUMATE AND SCHALLER, EUR/NE. ON THE BRITISH SIDE: AMBASSADOR PETER JAY, SIR BRIEN CUBBON, PERMANENT SECRETARY NI OFFICE; DAVID FORD, UNDER SECRETARY NIO; AND JONATHAN DAVIDSON, BRITISH EMBASSY. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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